GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3179
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2016
Improvement of Higher Education
Ahlawat Smt. Santosh;Saraswati Shri Sumedhanand

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the key challenges related to demand-supply gap, enrolment, privatisation etc. indicate that the situation of higher education sector is not encouraging;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the key initiatives from the Government side provide comprehensive solutions in this regard; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY)
(a) & (b): As a result of several initiatives taken by the Government, there has been a significant improvement in the higher education sector over the years in the country. As per All India Survey on Higher Education (2014-15) report, 51,534 institutions of higher education including 760 Universities have been set up in the country which is significantly higher as compared to the corresponding figures of 17,332 institutions of higher education including 350 universities in 2005-06. Also, with the increase in the number of institutions of higher education, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), which is calculated for 18-23 years of age group, is showing an increasing trend from 11.6% in 2005-06 to 24.3% in 2014-15.
(c) & (d): To improve the quality of higher education in the country, Government has announced its resolve to promote 20 universities to become world-class teaching and research institutions − 10 public and 10 private through a liberalised regulatory framework. Accordingly, UGC has issued draft guidelines and invited suggestions from all stakeholders. Apart from this, various schemes, namely, Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN), Impacting Research, Innovation & Technology (IMPRINT), Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme(TEQIP), Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT) Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), National Digital Library, campus connect programme, Uchhatar Avishkar Abhiyan, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan are being implemented to improve the quality of higher education in the country.
Under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), financial support is provided to States on cost sharing basis to open new institutions. The scheme supports components such as upgrading autonomous colleges to universities, clustering colleges to establish a university, setting up of new professional colleges in un-served and underserved areas as well as providing infrastructure grants to universities and colleges to scale up capacity.